

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
JUNE 27, 1931



Muna Lee

Director of National Activities of the National Woman's Party, who, by unanimous action of the National Council of the Woman's Party on June 21, was requested to continue in office for another year. Miss Lee is a member of the faculty of the University of Porto Rico, and it is not yet known whether she can secure an additional leave of absence to enable her to retain her post with the Woman's Party. The members of the National Council expressed deep appreciation for Miss Lee's magnificent and self-sacrificing work.

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

Justice Delayed

THE International Labor Organization is not yet prepared to stand for justice in industry. An unequal convention, despite protests of working women from many countries, and despite the request of the British and other governments which have found that the convention works badly in practice, remains unchanged. Once more the path of progress is blocked. But the determination of women all over the world to clear it is no less strong—stronger, perhaps, for the temporary defeat. Justice may be delayed; it cannot be forever denied.

According to a cable received at Alva Belmont House from Alice Paul, the International Labor Conference meeting in Geneva ended its sessions on June 18, with the discriminatory night work convention unchanged. The proposal for revision was defeated.

A woman delegate from Poland spoke before the Conference on the closing day, challenging its decision, and proposing a commission to investigate women in industry, to be composed of representatives of governments, employers, labor—and most specifically, laboring women. Officials of the Conference prevented a vote on her resolution, but the president of the Conference promised to bring the subject before the governing body of the International Labor Organization when it meets in October.

The Present Problem

THERE is no more interesting event within the range of human experience than the evolution of a great social movement from the unpopular to the popular stage. More especially to those who have had a part in bringing about the metamorphosis, the shift that takes place in public opinion, sometimes almost over night, is at first unbelievable.

Usually great social movements, such as political democracy or the abolition of slavery, progress so gradually that the generation which inaugurated the active stage of transformation has vanished from the earth before the climax has been achieved.

Not so in the Feminist movement. Here events have transpired so rapidly that those who planted the first seeds have been able to see the ripened fruit eagerly plucked by many hands.

Educators who entered the Feminist field when it was commonly believed that "the female mind was incapable of assimilating Greek, Latin and the higher mathematics," have lived to behold the institution of co-education in all but the most reactionary universities. The whole theory of the incapacity of "the female mind" has collapsed before their very eyes, and college education for women has shifted from being a "blue stocking" affair to becoming a social decoration.

Suffragists will recall how a few years since the world held up its hands in horror at the idea of "votes for women," while today the presence of women at the polls is wholly taken for granted.

Mrs. Pankhurst's statue on the embankment in London is a visible tribute to the fact that public opinion can change, and that with the most amazing rapidity.

Ten years ago in the United States the Equal Rights Movement, as phrased in the Federal Equal Rights Amendment, was not only unpopular, it was derided as having no reason to exist. Women who demanded Equal Rights were looked upon as futile purists foolishly asking for the moon.

When industrial equality was first sponsored by the National Woman's Party, even some of its own members were scandalized.

The flight of a decade, however, has witnessed a complete reversal in public opinion. The attainment of Equal Rights, with special emphasis upon economic equality, is now regarded by vast numbers of women in the United States as of fundamental importance in their daily lives. They are ready and willing to work for Equal Rights in every sphere of human activity, and it requires no lengthy argument to convince them that the Federal Equal Rights Amendment defines their goal.

The task today is, therefore, not so much to convince women that they need Equal Rights as to organize the already existing sentiment in support of a definite program of action.

The times have grown up around the principles advocated by the National Woman's Party and its continued leadership depends not upon its prophetic vision, but upon its practical power to organize. Millions of women in the United States are ready to enlist in the Equal Rights Campaign. Shall we ask them to join the Woman's Party or shall we stand by while they form new Equal Rights organizations as they are already doing in many parts of our land?

Doris Stevens Sails

DORIS STEVENS, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, sailed at midnight, June 19, on the Europa to attend a meeting of the League of Nations' Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality, opening July 2 in the League of Nations Building, Geneva.

The creation of this important committee was largely due to the campaign waged during the past year at Geneva by Alice Paul, who is chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and a Founder of the National Woman's Party. Miss Paul and Miss Stevens will represent the Commission on the League of Nations Committee. Alternates will be Marta Vergara of Chile and Blanche Z. de Baralt of Cuba.

On sailing, Miss Stevens made the following statement:

"We are going to Geneva to meet with women leaders from Europe, Asia and the Americas. This meeting promises to result in the most important action yet taken by women to establish world wide equality between them and men.

"A year ago, representatives of nearly fifty nations met at The Hague under the auspices of the League of Nations, and attempted to write international law on the nationality of women. In the agreement which they drew up, they refused to

give women the same status as men. Of all the nations of the world, the United States alone voted against this treaty.

"Immediately women all over the world protested against this unjust international law. The women of the United States, realizing that their own gains are not secure while, over a large portion of the earth, women's nationality is treated with contempt, have taken a leading part in this protest. Women now are convinced that their struggle for equality transcends national boundaries; and that they must meet international proposals made by men with international action by women. Women now insist that international treaties shall guarantee them rights instead of perpetuating inequality.

"Women feel that it is of vital importance that The Hague nationality treaty, since it is the beginning of an attempt to write a code for the world, shall not contain discriminations against them. Women focused their protest on the League of Nations and the League has consented to reconsider the matter. Up to the present time, women have succeeded in preventing a single country from ratifying this treaty. Now the Council of the League has invited a committee of women from eight leading women's international organizations to recommend what we hope will result in a revision of this treaty so as to embody equality.

"This is the first time in the eleven-years of the League's existence that it has empowered women to advise on their rights. This is welcome evidence that men are conscious that they can no longer, with impunity, deny women equality in law and custom. Women, together with men, approve the movement to codify international law. But women will not stand by without protest if this code does not treat men and women equally."

Sailing with Miss Stevens were Fanny Bunand Sevastos, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and Mrs. G. F. Laidlaw of New York City. After the sessions at Geneva, Mrs. Laidlaw will go to Stockholm to attend the International Conference of the Open Door International, which works to secure revision of the treaties imposing unequal terms upon women workers which have been sponsored by the International Labor Office.

Miss Stevens will confer with Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, president of the National Woman's Party, at her country home in France, Chateau d'Augerville de la Riviere. Mrs. Belmont has had a leading part in the equal nationality rights campaign, and her home has become an unofficial headquarters for Feminists from many countries, who are in constant consultation with her.

A Working Woman in Georgia

By Josephine Casey

Fifth in a series of articles by Miss Casey on the textile situation in Georgia

IN a previous article I told you that while the North may have a notion that the Southern woman rambles all over the lot, I can tell the world that she hits the bullseye every time. A club-woman said to me. "It is a good thing you came, for we might have gone along with our eyes closed." Well, many of them are not going along so, and certainly those who have had an explanation have had their eyes opened. Two speeches at different women's clubs were what you might call galvanized by the innocent inquiry, "What do the women in the mills think of this law?" I was glad, therefore, that last night at a dinner given by the alert business women, I could tell what the protectionists could not. And how!

At one o'clock the other morning, a woman answered by banging a spindle on her machine and shouting at me, "I know women here with families who will starve if you pass that law!" She mistook me for an advocate of the law; because, wanting to get the facts, I had put the question so as to make it easy for her to approve the law if she wished it. I had to dash after that woman and explain.

The president of her mill did not ob-

ject to my seeing it. I don't know why he should have, for sitting upon that hill with the air cooled by humidifiers, with every modern facility for comfort, he had nothing to fear from the thorough inspection I made. He may have been a little surprised, however, when I selected midnight as the hour to make the call. At eleven I drove out about two miles from town. I told the girl at the switchboard who I was, and she said something to a man standing near. He came towards me, saying, "I found a note on my desk telling me I was to admit you." I took a position inside where I could see and speak to those who came out. There were no children. All looked nicely dressed, and nearly all had short bobs with good marcel waves. I said to one girl, "Tired?" "Sure," was the reply with a quick smile. Not one looked fatigued. They had been on since 4 P. M. and that was midnight. They were going home to sleep eight hours and would have time—plenty of time and sunshine before four the next day. Now

let me make this clear: the president of those mills did not get off any blah about doing anything for working women. The mill was as good as money could provide—the shifts were eight hours each.

These girls on an 8-hour shift, day or night, get more actual sunshine than those working 10 hours each day. At a little after midnight I went into the spool room. The man who let me in kept me in sight, and once in a while spoke to me, as when he showed me the way from one floor to another. Otherwise, he stayed at some distance and had nothing to do with my selection of a girl I approached. Often the girl did not see me until I came from behind her machine. With the building eleven hundred feet long and several stories high, it would have been impossible to coach them in the short time since my request had been made.

Some were working the night shift, hoping for a chance at day work when there was a vacancy. Some had through seniority a chance to pick the day shift, but preferred the night. But all preferred the night work to no work at all, and all would rather work the night shift of eight hours and a 48-hour week in this

model mill with space and every modern equipment to a 10-hour day shift and 60-hour work in another mill.

I stood by Pearl—a strong, self-reliant woman who runs a machine, costing over \$18,000, which runs 500 yards a minute. Why, they would not trust an expensive complicated machine like that to a woman who was nitwit enough to let someone make laws for her without asking her! She is not only supporting herself but has to help her old dad. Gladys, another warper, and another Gladys, a spinner, each has to take care of a mother. Drucilla, a spinner, has to help a father and

mother. Una is entitled to a day shift, but keeps the midnight shift so as to spend more time with her daughter who is in high school. She gets home in time for mother and daughter to breakfast together. While the girl is at school, Una sleeps; and after school they do up the housework together and enjoy being together. When the girl goes to bed, Una can rest or read until it is time to go on the job. She likes this schedule and it is her choice. She is available to her daughter, all through the child's day, and when she is safely tucked in bed the mother can go to work free from worry.

I called at other mills and talked with women in their homes but this was the place where I visited the women doing night work, while they were actually on the job. Since we have statesmen who can count heads but can never come near the thought of the people, and have also well-meaning "protectionists" who have come to believe that those they have never seen are automatons able to work but infantile in mentality, it behooves those who work for a living and who want a square deal for all who do work, to organize for the national amendment for Equal Rights.

A Remarkable Human Document

THIS is a wonderful and fascinating book. It covers one of the most colorful and amazing chapters in the history of womankind. It is also a remarkable human document. It takes us behind the scenes and gives us intimate pictures of a number of extraordinary women. It will have a perennial interest for the student of exceptional feminine psychology. It likewise gives us glimpses—sometimes rather surprising glimpses—of personalities still active in British politics, Ramsay MacDonald, Philip Snowden, Lloyd George, Bernard Shaw, Margaret Bondfield and others.

Sylvia Speaks with high appreciation of her father. Dr. Pankhurst was a distinguished lawyer, an early champion of woman's rights. He had twenty years of public service behind him when he got engaged to the beautiful Emmeline Goulden, a girl half his age. In view of the unequal and oppressive marriage laws of the day, she proposed that they should dispense with a legal ceremony; but he would not subject her to the social penalties involved. Their home in Manchester was a centre of active work for the public good. Sylvia says: "Our father, vilified and boycotted, yet beloved by a multitude of people in many walks of life, was a standard-bearer of every forlorn hope, every unpopular yet worthy cause. Our mother, twenty years his junior, charged with the abounding ardor of impressionable youth, was the most zealous of his disciples. The children were trained in the same tradition. He often said to them, 'If you do not work for other people, you will not have been worth the upbringing!'"

Left a widow, Mrs. Pankhurst bent herself to the support of her children, but continued her interest in public affairs. In 1903 she founded the Women's Social and Political Union, which was destined to be for ten years a power in British politics.

The outlook for woman suffrage was dark. A majority of the House of Commons favored it, but no bill introduced by a private member could pass without government aid, because the time allotted

By Alice Stone Blackwell

A REVIEW OF THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT: AN INTIMATE ACCOUNT OF PERSONS AND IDEALS. By E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Longmans, Green & Co., New York. \$7.50.

to a private bill was limited, and the opposition could always talk it out, unless the Speaker applied the cloture. Woman suffrage was thus talked out again and again. The women wanted the government to bring in a woman suffrage bill, as a government measure could command all the time needed.

The idea of militancy came to Mrs. Pankhurst during a period of widespread unemployment. The government refused to do anything for the unemployed until they began to riot; then its attitude suddenly changed. A "crisis" was declared to have arisen. It occurred to Mrs. Pankhurst that a crisis might be produced in regard to woman suffrage.

Candidates were vigorously heckled. "Votes for Women" banners appeared in the House of Commons. Women protested from the ladies' gallery, against the delay of their bill, and chained themselves to the grille to make it harder to throw them out. Mrs. Pankhurst and Sylvia had sat alone in the lobby, waiting to interview statesmen. Now larger and larger deputations of women came demanding audience. The House of Commons was guarded as if against a siege, and guarded in vain. Women slipped in by all sorts of stratagems. Police beat back the crowds of women, and handled them with great brutality. Women were sent to prison, went on hunger strikes, and came out more determined than ever. A big suffrage balloon soared over Parliament. Women went out on the Thames in boats, swam ashore and invaded the House from the water demanding votes. Once Mrs. Pankhurst, filled with anguish by the long delay, caught Sylvia looking at her pitifully. She smiled, and said, "Don't look at me like that! Bless you, your old mother likes it. This is what I call life!"

Sylvia says, "Adventure and excitement were the lode-star of her being."

The older and more conservative Suffrage Associations were exasperated by the militant tactics of the Women's Social and Political Union and the Women's Freedom League, but were spurred by them to greater activity. The movement grew and grew. Five thousand meetings were held in one month. The monster demonstrations and processions broke all records. The government remained obdurate.

A campaign was undertaken to defeat the party in power. Wherever a Cabinet Minister spoke, he was persistently heckled. Instead of having their questions answered, the women were flung out, and violently assaulted by the enraged partisans of the candidates. Sometimes every shred of clothing was torn from their bodies.

Sylvia is an artist. She designed the banners and brooches, and the great symbolic statues used in the demonstrations. She is also an artist in words, and gives us, with a few brief touches, vivid sketches of many of the heroines of that thrilling struggle. Mrs. Pankhurst is shown in these pages as a woman of extraordinary gifts, and some very human failings; endowed with rare energy, courage and eloquence, "a golden voice," and great personal charm; but so devoted to her favorite daughter, the brilliant Christabel, that she always followed her counsels, which were not always wise. Mrs. Pankhurst stood to the public as the leader, but Christabel was the little Napoleon who really directed the militant campaign; and she had much of Napoleon's selfishness and tyranny. Everybody who differed with her policy by a hair's breadth was promptly turned out of the Women's Social and Political Union, including her sisters Adela and Sylvia. Mrs. Pankhurst made Adela promise to deliver no more speeches in England. She went to Australia and became an organizer for the Woman's Party there. Sylvia started work in the terrible East End of London, and organized very effective suf-

frage demonstrations by the London poor. Her society was at first a branch of the Women's Social and Political Union, but later was cast out. She became so much beloved that when the police tried to secure a room near her headquarters, in order to watch and arrest her, none of the desperately poor people in that crowded street would rent them a room at any price. Again and again they failed to arrest her because of the huge crowds that rallied to her defence.

In England, window-breaking had always been a favorite way of expressing political discontent. The women broke the windows of Government House. Later, by an organized raid, they broke the plate glass windows of 93 fashionable shops. Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence were tried for conspiracy and imprisoned. The owners of all the broken windows collected damages from Mr. Lawrence, the only one of the defendants who had money, and he had to go into bankruptcy.

Mrs. Pankhurst and Christabel, with the Pethick-Lawrences, had long constituted the inner council of the Women's Social and Political Union. The Lawrences had contributed generously to the cause, and Mrs. Lawrence, as treasurer, had always been able to raise any amount of money. Now a difference of opinion on policy led to a separation. Mrs. Pankhurst announced that henceforth the suffrage movement would show itself as dangerous to property as the Chartist movement had been. The Lawrences did not approve of this, nor did Sylvia. A

regular campaign of incendiarism was undertaken; three castles in Scotland were burned, and many vacant houses in England, and much other damage was done. The suffragettes were treated as outlaws. To avoid arrest, Christabel went to Paris, and directed the campaign from there. Mrs. Pankhurst was sentenced to three years penal servitude. She, Sylvia, and many other women were sent to prison over and over, went on hunger strikes and were forcibly fed. Under the "Cat and Mouse Act," a woman let out because she was at the point of starvation could be re-arrested as soon as she got better, and sent back to serve the rest of her sentence without further trial. Several women lost their lives, and many their health.

England's militant movement was largely misunderstood in America. The cablegrams about it were almost always hostile in tone, and often misrepresented the facts. We were taunted for years with the story that the militants had tried to set fire to "a crowded theatre." It was a theatre from which most of the audience had gone out. But setting fires was not a right or a wise way to agitate for the vote. The earlier militancy was worthy of all praise; the later militancy, which aimed at widespread destruction of property, was, in my opinion, a serious mistake, despite the heroism of the women and the excellence of their cause.

When the World War broke out, Christabel dropped the demand for the vote, and threw herself with burning zeal into

furthering the war. She urged universal conscription, military conscription for men and industrial conscription for women. Sylvia felt very differently. When she headed a great demonstration against conscription and in favor of universal suffrage, Mrs. Pankhurst cabled from America: "Strongly repudiate and condemn Sylvia's foolish and unpatriotic conduct. Regret I cannot prevent use of name." Sylvia comments quietly: "Families which remain on unruffled terms though their members are in opposing political parties take their politics less keenly to heart than we Pankhursts." Adela, in Australia, also opposed conscription, and helped to defeat it on referendum. She, too, was repudiated by her mother. Mrs. Pankhurst devoted her "golden voice" to recruiting. From having been Lloyd George's uncompromising opponent, she became one of his chief lieutenants. Sylvia labored to soften the hardships that the war brought upon the poor, and urged equal pay for the women who had to take up men's work.

After the war, woman suffrage came rather quietly. The women's manifold wartime services had paved the way. Also, the politicians knew that suffrage militancy could be renewed.

The human interest of the book is almost as great as its historical interest. The story is simply and modestly told. Sylvia's character grows upon the reader throughout—brave, unselfish and tender hearted. She ends with a forward-looking word: "Great is the work which remains to be accomplished."

Press Comment

Michigan Chairman Wants Women Legislators.

Detroit News, Detroit, Michigan, May 23, 1931.

for "playing horse" with the aims of women, Mrs. Walter M. Nelson, retiring chairman of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, in an address at the Hotel Tuller Saturday night, declared that the only hope of Michigan women to obtain proper legislation is to elect women to the State Senate and House.

"The present Legislature is the worst this State has had in years," she declared. "Its actions have not only been stupid, but silly, and its perverted sense of humor in considering barring married women from employment—an unconstitutional measure—was an insult to the women of this State.

"When the Senate was organized our arch enemy, Senator Rushton, was placed in the strategic position of chairman of

SCORING Senator Herbert J. Rushton of Escanaba as the arch enemy of women seeking Equal Rights, and the Legislature

the Judiciary Committee. He is the man who last year said that women should be home washing their pots and pans instead of being in Lansing in connection with legislation about which they knew nothing. And about which, by the way, he knew less."

Mrs. Nelson recounted the efforts of the Woman's Party in behalf of the contract bill, giving married women Equal Rights with their husbands in the matter of contracts, which was reintroduced this year, but which Senator Rushton refused to let out of committee, she said. She also referred to the defeat of the separate domicile bill, in the House, after it was passed in the Senate, and the effect it would have on Bina West Miller, member of the Republican National Committee of Port Huron, whose husband lives in Chicago.

"But where men are concerned themselves it is easy enough to get them to enact legislation," she continued. "For instance, the bill restoring the rights of husbands to one-third of their wives' estates went through with flying colors after 76 years."

With reference to the Dykstra Bill, Mrs.

Nelson said that while it was generally regarded as a joke, it forced women to spend time and money in going from all parts of the State to Lansing, to say nothing of the indignity they suffered, to accomplish its defeat. She pointed to the fact that it received thirteen votes as indicative of the attitude of male legislators.

Mabel Vernon of Wilmington, Delaware, campaign director of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and former executive secretary of the National Woman's Party, reviewed the fight put up by women of many nations for nationality rights—abrogations of the law and custom of nationality being transmitted to the child through the father—at the last session of the League of Nations. The matter is on the agenda of the coming session of the League in September.

"Sixteen delegates from eight leading women's international organizations will meet at the League of Nations Building in Geneva, July 2, to draw up recommendations on the nationality of women, to be submitted by the secretary-general to the Assembly of the League," she said.

"The United States voted against the convention for the codification of international laws in the 1930 meeting because it discriminated against women. No nation has ratified that convention, and, of 66 nations to whom it was submitted, 29 have refused to sign it."

Miss Vernon said that too few women take an active interest in the really important things that look to their advancement, but was optimistic of the future as she recounted the many gains of the past. Reforms are accomplished first by group action, then community action and finally

national and international achievement, she said.

The following telegram was ordered sent to William N. Doak, Secretary of Labor:

"The Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, in annual convention, protests against the restrictions now placed upon women in international conventions. We urge that the United States at the International Labor Conference at Geneva do all in its power to establish the principle of equality between men and women."

Officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Mrs. George L. Grimes; vice-chairmen, Phoebe C. Munneke, Mary Brumfield, and Mrs. W. O. Stevens; recording secretary, Mrs. E. Dixon; corresponding secretary, Rilla Nelson; treasurer, Dr. Marie Timpona; directors, Emma A. Fox, Mrs. Harry Austin, and Mrs. Mary Ross.

(Note: The Separate Domicile Bill, referred to in the text as lost, was finally passed and has been signed by the Governor. The National Woman's Party supported it.)

Feminist Notes

One Vote Blocks Jury Bill

ALTHOUGH seventy-six members of the Illinois House of Representatives voted for the bill opening jury service to women on June 12, and only forty-six voted against it, the bill was not passed because the affirmative votes numbered one less than the constitutional majority of the House. Because the jury service bill passed by the last General Assembly of Illinois provided for a referendum (in which jury service for women won), the State Supreme Court held it was unconstitutional on the ground that the Legislature had no authority to delegate legislative powers to the people. Thus for the second time the will of the majority of the people and the legislators of Illinois has been blocked by legal technicalities.

Orientalist Honored

Evangeline D. Edwards, recently awarded the degree of doctor of literature in Oriental languages from the University of London, is said to be the first woman so honored.

While living in China she decided to master its language. She engaged the services of an elderly Chinese who did not understand English and eventually, though neither understood the other, words began to grow familiar, and in a few months' time conversation was entirely easy. Writing the Chinese was much more difficult, Miss Edwards says.

She taught for six years in China, and since her return to London has taught in the School of Oriental Studies. To secure her degree she wrote a thesis on the Tang period of Chinese history.

For Two Points in Equality

THE world organization of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, meeting recently in Toronto, Canada, went on record in its adopted platform as favoring equality in moral standards and in nationality between men and women.

The platform expressed the hope that attempts to obtain legislation preserving married women's nationalities would be successful.

They Collect the Rents

WOMEN have proved themselves tremendous successes as rent collectors in England, according to press reports from that country.

The Liverpool Improved Houses, Ltd., in despair handed over 650 of its cottages to the Women House Property-Managers' Association to collect the rents. One street alone of these cottages owed £700 in back rent.

The women collectors set straight to work, and now the rent books show the collection of 98 per cent. of all rent due. With this record of women's success down in undisputable black and white across the page from the masculine record in red,

landlords are realizing in increasing numbers that, with a qualified woman in charge, financial matters take a turn for the better.

Nor is the actual collection of the rent all that women rent collectors are more successful at handling than men. According to the London Bureau of the *Christian Science Monitor*, the human aspect of rent collecting presents problems which are more skillfully, tactfully, and understandingly handled by women than by men.

First Honored by Princeton

WILLA CATHER, famous American novelist, was honored by Princeton University at its recent 184th commencement not only by being awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, but by being the first woman ever given an honorary degree by the university.

She is the author of "My Antonia," "Death Comes for the Archbishop," "A Lost Lady," "The Professor's House," and other novels.

Polar Geographer

NINA PETROVNA DEMNEY of Russia was the only woman in the Arctic expedition, organized by the Soviet Republic, which recently left for Frithjof Nansen Country. Miss Demney, 28 years old, is the geographer of the party and the first woman to take a leading part in a Polar expedition.

News from the Field

To Hold Supper Meeting

HELEN ELIZABETH BROWN, Baltimore attorney and chairman of the Business and Professional Women's Council of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, has called a special meeting of the executive committee of the Council for June 29 to outline plans for work during the summer and autumn.

The meeting will be held in Roland Park at the residence of Edith Houghton Hooker, chairman of the Maryland Branch, who will act as hostess to the

members of the executive committee at supper.

Council Meets in Maryland

AN all-day meeting of the National Council of the National Woman's Party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Ogle, "Sylvanside," Catonsville, Maryland, on June 21. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman, presided. Those present were Mrs. Wiley, Florence Bayard Hilles of Delaware, Burnita Shelton Matthews, Laura Berrien,

and Nina E. Allender of Washington, D. C.; Muna Lee of Porto Rico, Dora G. Ogle, and Edith Houghton Hooker of Maryland.

Reports of officers and standing committees indicating marked progress in the work of the Woman's Party were presented. The treasurer's report showed a comfortable balance on hand sufficient to carry the work already undertaken, including salaries, the cost of maintaining National Headquarters and some new organization work. Essential expansion of

the field work will require additional financing.

Plans for the Ohio conference, to be held the latter part of October in Columbus, Ohio, and for the national convention to be held in Washington, D. C., December, 4, 5, 6 and 7, were discussed.

Many other matters of national and international importance were brought up and passed upon, but the question which commanded the most attention was the appointment of the Director of National Activities. Letters were read from members of the Council, from New York to California, expressing a desire that Muna Lee, the present incumbent of the office, should continue as director, if her obligations in connection with the University of Porto Rico permitted. A resolution proposed by Edith Houghton Hooker of Maryland requesting Miss Lee to continue in the office of director for another year was unanimously and enthusiastically carried.

A delicious luncheon was served under the direction of the Misses Kennard, assisted by Dorothy Ogle.

California Women Demand Equality

A COPY of a resolution adopted at the Twelfth Annual Convention of the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs at Pomona, California, June 13, 1931, follows:

WHEREAS, the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in successive conventions has opposed all legislation that placed discriminatory restrictions upon the activities of women employed in gainful occupations, and

WHEREAS, the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs through its legislative chairman, its district legislative chairmen and its affiliated clubs, carried out an active and effective program in its opposition to proposed discriminatory legislation against women workers at the last legislative session, and

WHEREAS, there is no security nor permanency about State legislation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Twelfth Annual Convention of Southern District, California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, commend the action of the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in opposing this class of legislation and urge its continued vigilance in watching and opposing all future proposed legislation that applies only to women employed in gainful occupations; and further be it

Resolved, That this convention recommend to the clubs of Southern District that they present one program during the year for their members on "Equal status of men and women in the laws of the State of California," and further be it

Resolved, That publicity be given to this resolution through the press.

This resolution was presented by the

Business Women's City Club and the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Los Angeles.

Pennsylvania Members Confer

A LUNCHEON meeting was held at the College Club, Philadelphia, on Saturday, June 20, for the purpose of outlining plans for organization work in Pennsylvania next autumn. The meeting was arranged by Mrs. Vincil Stein, assisted by Ella Riegel and Martha Souder. Edith Henneman, corresponding secretary of the Business and Professional Women's Council of Maryland, and Edith Houghton Hooker were invited by Mrs. Stein to confer with the Pennsylvania members. They both described organization methods already tried out with success in Maryland.

Distinguished Suffragist Dies

REBECCA F. HOFFMAN, Register of New York County and the highest paid woman official in New York State, died on June 18 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Nathan Ries in New York City.

Ever since the passage of the Suffrage Amendment, Mrs. Hoffman has been Democratic co-leader of the Sixth Assembly District, but she had never held public office before her nomination as register by the Democrats, an office which she won for the second time in the 1929 election as the only one of thirty-four women nominees to win in the city.

As the Register of New York County, Mrs. Hoffman was paid \$12,000 annual salary.

Garden Party Tea

THE National Woman's Party will have tea in the garden on Sunday afternoon, June 28, at 4.30 o'clock.

The program will be rendered by a number of guest speakers, followed by a brief review of the recent work of the organization.

The Junior League will act as assistant hostesses and new members who have entered in the past few months will be guests of honor.

Maryland Branch Holds Benefit

A CARD party for the benefit of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, "Upland," Roland Park, Maryland, on June 18, with Vera Fowler Lewis in charge. About one hundred guests were in attendance and approximately \$75 was cleared.

Seventh Pan-American Conference

THE agenda for the Seventh Pan-American Conference, to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1932, has been approved by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union, and sent to the governments of the twenty-one American republics for consideration and comment.

Chapter I of the agenda, as drafted, provides for Juridical Problems, and Section C is allotted entirely to "Consideration of the Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women regarding political and civil equality of women." The importance of the place on the program assigned the report of the Commission is striking and incontrovertible evidence of the solidity of the work it is accomplishing and the official recognition given it by the American governments.

Women of the Americas may well be proud of that accomplishment. It is astonishing how much has been done in how short a time. It will be recalled that equality was, according to vote of the Fifth Conference at Santiago, one of the subjects slated for consideration at the Sixth Conference in Havana. But the Fifth Conference created no commission of women encharged with seeing that its will should be carried out; and the subject of equality was "lost" between conferences. Nothing concerning it appeared on the agenda; and if the Woman's Party Committee on International Action had not stormed the gates at Havana, the question might well have been sidetracked for another quarter century.

We all know what did happen, however, that vivid story and its sequel has become one of the classic incidents of international strategy. The Sixth Conference created the Inter-American Commission of Women, the work of which, under Doris Stevens' dramatic leadership, has been a series of triumphs supported by solid indefatigable labor in research. And the Seventh Conference spontaneously assigns the Commission and its brilliant young chairman that place upon the program demanded by the importance of its report and recommendations regarding the legal status of women in this hemisphere.

Ecuador Appoints Commissioner

THE President of Ecuador has just appointed as representative of that Republic on the Inter-American Commission of Women a talented and beautiful young woman, Rosa Huerta de Viteri Lafronte, wife of the Ecuadoran Minister in Washington. Sra. de Viteri, for whom Feminism is an instinctive expression of a richly endowed personality, says that she came to this country with an especial commission from many women's groups in Ecuador.

"Find out for us what women in the United States are doing," they told her. "Let us know for what they are striving and what methods they pursue."

A gifted musician, the mother of a three-month-old baby, and a swift and sympathetic interpreter of her country's Feminist aspirations, Sra. de Viteri charmingly exemplifies the range of interests, the solid preparation, and the generous idealism of contemporary youth in Spanish America.

An Equal Rights Gavel

CARRIE HARRISON of Washington, D. C., writes:

"The National Woman's Party has now the only Equal Rights gavel in the world, and it is dedicated to Alice Paul.

"The wood of which it is made is the white birch and the white ash. These trees, called eska and embla, were the trees of the old Norse mythology, from which the pagans said men and women were descended. It was a thousand years before Darwin and his evolution, and pleasanter to be descended from a beautiful tree rather than from a monkey.

"Alice Paul is so far the dominant woman of this century. Doris Stevens calls her a saint, but I maintain that she is the most practical politician in the whole entire world. She never bawls her orders from the bridge, but is down below with the engine, her hand on the steering gear and her foot on the power. It will require a hundred years for the women of America to fully appreciate what they owe Alice Paul."

Receives Degree

MARGUERITE DUGAN HOPKINS of Wilmington, Delaware, a member of the Delaware Branch of the National Woman's Party, was graduated as a lawyer on June 19 at the commencement exercises at Temple University, in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Hopkins has been studying law for the past four years at Temple University. She was the personal secretary of the late Josiah Marvel president of the American Bar Association, for a number of years. She is still in the office of Marvel, Morford, Logan and Ward.

If she is admitted to the bar in Delaware, she will be the third Wilmington woman permitted to practice law. The other two are Sybil Ward and Evangeline Barsky.

Josephine Casey Speaks on Industrial Equality

THE Woman's Division of the Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta, Georgia, on June 15 held a dinner meeting of especial interest to members of the Woman's Party. We quote from the Woman's Division mimeographed announcement of the event:

"You will not want to miss the June dinner meeting, for there will be presented a matter that every progressive woman is especially interested in. The topic will be 'Protective Legislation for Women in Industry.'

"Miss Lillian Wade, one of our own members, who is also secretary of the Southern Council on Women and Children in Industry, will present the proposed legislation from the side of the council. Miss Josephine Casey, representing the central office of the National Woman's Party in Washington, will present the view of the

legislation taken by that organization. There will be no debate, just a presentation of both sides."

The next section of this interesting mimeographed bulletin, captioned "A Page From the President," comments pleasantly upon Josephine Casey, valiant outpost of equality in the industrial campaign, as follows:

"So many times in our lives we meet casually people whose names and faces we learn, merely to pass on, forgetting. Then some incident arrests our attention and we fully appreciate what we might so easily have missed. Recently it was my privilege to have a conference with a woman whom I had almost missed. She has a personality that 'gets' you, wide experience, keen insight into human nature, and a knowledge of women's affairs possessed by few. I believe you will enjoy Josephine Casey as I did."

Missouri Governor for Equality

"WE are ever watchful of discriminations against women, and always enter protest when they appear," writes Mrs. J. C. Glenn, secretary of the Missouri Branch of the National Woman's Party. "We are doing a great work here, but are too busy to write much about it."

The immediate occasion of Mrs. Glenn's letter was to send in the answer of Governor Caulfield of Missouri to the Woman's Party protest against unequal legislation. The letter in which the Governor of Missouri asserts his own belief in equality was directed to the secretary of the Kansas City, Missouri, Branch, and reads:

Executive Office, State of Missouri

"Jefferson City, April 28, 1931.

"Mrs. Harry L. Cloudsley,

"Kansas City, Mo.

"Dear Mrs. Cloudsley:

"Answering your letter of April 17 I quite agree with you that 'the welfare of the human race is bound up in the comradeship of men and women, and both must suffer under unjust laws, favoring one and discriminating against the other.'

"I am against any artificial discrimination against the women in our State. I am happy to say that no such attempt has been made by this Legislature.

"Very sincerely,

"(Signed) HENRY S. CAULFIELD."

Interested in Deportation Bill

HARRY SHIRLEY, chairman of charity for the Town of Wallaceburg, Ontario, continues his interest in the fight of the National Woman's Party for justice to Lillian Larsh, native-born American woman deported to Canada, and against deportations of native-born women who have lost their citizenship by marriage to aliens. In a letter to Rilla Nelson of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, Mr. Shirley says:

"It was really very gratifying to pick up our Chatham paper this evening and read the recent dispatch from Washington in regard to the Larsh case, which intimates that there is a possibility that Congress may in the near future pass a bill which will aid this unfortunate woman's case.

"On behalf of the council of this town, I feel that I am voicing the sentiments of every member, in fact of every citizen, in expressing the sincerest appreciation to your worthy organization, the National Woman's Party, for their kindly efforts and co-operation in this unjust deportation, and we certainly do hope that you will win out, and wish you every success.

"I would greatly appreciate if you could advise me as to when this bill is likely to be presented, so that we may gain a little idea as to what preparations to make for the temporary care of the family while they are with us.

"Your kindly visit to our town was greatly appreciated, as also your careful and kindly method of investigating the facts, and I can assure you that you will always find a very warm welcome in our town at any future time that you may care to visit us. My wife has asked me to express her disappointment at not having seen you, but hopes to have the pleasure of so doing at some early date."

Nicaragua Feminists Visit

ALFONSO ZELAYA, famous pianist and son of the late General S. Zelaya, for seventeen years President of Nicaragua, was, with his distinguished wife, a recent caller at Alva Belmont House. Sra. de Zelaya, a new and most enthusiastic member of the Woman's Party, is deeply interested in the progress of Feminism, especially in its international phases. Sr. Zelaya is himself no less a Feminist, and expressed his deep interest in the work being carried on in this country and abroad by the National Woman's Party. "The work of the Woman's Party has a far greater influence than its own members may realize," he said, "in setting a precedent of initiative and direct action."

Sr. Zelaya, in accordance with permission granted by a special act of the United States Congress, was educated at West Point Military Academy. Not war, but music, however, claimed him upon graduation; and he has had a brilliant career in this country and abroad. His playing is often a feature of the concerts at the Pan-American Union. He and Sra. de Zelaya are for the present making their home in Washington.

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